

Per. Taylor, Harold
CIA 2-04.2 student groups
Org. 1 Natl. Student Assoc.
Org. 1 Natl. Found. for
Student Affairs

to the Editor of The Times

To Finance Student Affairs

To the Editor:

One of the deepest ironies in the relation between the C.I.A. and the National Student Association lies in the fact that at a time in the nineteen-fifties when the United States was suspicious of any political action by students, unwilling to grant them responsibility for social or educational policy in the universities or funds for independent student action, the one organization in the entire country which did trust the students was the most sensitive of them all, the Central Intelligence Agency.

Program Subsidy

The irony continues in the fact that the international programs of N.S.A. were very good, were conducted in apparent independence of Government policy, but would never have been possible at all without the C.I.A. subsidy.

The fault lay in the secrecy, not in the programs. If reports were to be written about foreign student leaders and political movements abroad, these could very well have been published openly to the benefit of all concerned, both here and abroad.

Under an open grant from the State Department, the National Student Association last fall ran

a first-rate travel program and seminar in educational reform for eleven Bolivian students. The itinerary, personnel and contents were arranged by N.S.A. students. The visitors knew the funds were from the State Department. No one then questioned the integrity of the sponsors.

Public and Private Funds

Is it not possible to organize a National Foundation for Student Affairs, on the model of the National Endowment for the Arts, with an independent board, a \$10-million annual budget and a simple administrative arrangement for grant-making to student projects and programs? Or an Office of Student Affairs in the United States Office of Education? Or, failing that, why not establish a comparable national foundation through a consortium of existing foundations, to which both private and public money could be given openly, making it possible for the donors to take pride in what they are doing and in the young people they are supporting?

Otherwise, the students will be right back where they started from, except that this time they will start under the handicap of having been damaged by the clandestine decisions and activities of their own Government.

HAROLD TAYLOR

New York, Feb. 22, 1967

The writer, former president of Sarah Lawrence College, was at one time a member of the National Student Association Advisory Council.

*Attachment Missing
of O'Rourke, John T.
in JOURNALISTS*